Functioning of Milk Cooperatives under Operation Flood

1641. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the milk cooperative societies functioning under Operation Flood, have to borrow money from the banks to meet the requirements of their working capital ;

(b) whether these societies have to pay high rates of interest on these borrowings of working capital; and

(c) whether Government would initiate steps to ensure that these milk societies, get loans either from the cooperatives or from commercial banks, at the concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent especially for their working capital, in view of the fact that dairy is an allied agricultural activity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) The working capital requirements of the milk cooperative societies functioning under the Operation Flood are mostly for payments to be made to the producers for the milk procured from them. Under the scheme of working capital advances by IDC, there is a provision for making advances to Federations for liquid milk procured with a view to pass on adequate funds to milk cooperative societies to enable them to make regular payments to producers fot the milk procured.

Establishment of 'High Security Animal Diseases Laboratory' at Bhopal

1642. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to establish a 'High Security Animal Diseases Laboratory' at Bhopal and whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have allotted about 135 acres of land for the same ;

(b) if so, what is the progress of the project and the reasons for its slow progress ; and

(c) what steps Government and Indian Agriculture Research Institute are taking in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes Sir. A High Security Animal Disease Laboratory of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) is to be set up at Bhopal and the Government of Madhya Pradesh have made available 134.89 acres of land for the same.

(b) The Laboratory is being established with the assistance of United Nations Development Programme. Considerable ground work had to be done before the proposal could be cleared at different governmental levels.

(c) The Government of India input worth Rs. 100 lakhs has been included in the EFC Memo of 7th Plan of the IVRI which is under consideration of the Government.

Losses of HSCL

1643. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited (HSCL) has been incurring huge losses; and

(b) if so, what are the comparative losses suffered by HSCL during the last three years year-wise stating the main problems identified by Government for these losses ?